



The Gazette of Meghalaya

EXTRAORDINARY

PUBLISHED BY AUTHORITY

No. 413

Shillong, Friday, December 7, 2018

16th Agrahayana, 1940 (S. E.)

PART-I

GOVERNMENT OF MEGHALAYA

MEGHALAYA LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY SECRETARIAT

NOTIFICATION

The 4th December, 2018.

No.LB.104/LA/2018/3.-It is hereby notified for general information that in pursuance of Rule 194 (I) the Hon'ble Speaker has been pleased to constitute the Committee on Environment under Rule 260 R of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in Meghalaya Legislative Assembly for the period of 1 (one) year from the date of this Notification.

1. Shri Syntar K. Sunn - MLA & Chairman.
2. Shri Renikton Tongkhar Lyngdoh - MLA.
3. Shri Pius Marwein - MLA.
4. Shri Rakkam A. Sangma - MLA.
5. Shri George B. Lyngdoh - MLA.
6. Shri Kimfa S. Marbaniang - MLA.
7. Smti. Miani D. Shira - MLA.
8. Shri Himalaya M. Shangpliang - MLA.

ANDREW SIMONS,
Commissioner and Secretary,
Meghalaya Legislative Assembly.



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PART-IIA

GOVERNMENT OF MEGHALAYA

POLITICAL DEPARTMENT

NOTIFICATION

The 7th December, 2018.

No.POL.112/2013/Pt./31. - The following Resolution dated 27th November, 2018 passed by the Meghalaya Legislative Assembly is hereby published for general information.

MEGHALAYA LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY RESOLUTION

Whereas, in supersession of the Resolution dated 27th September, 2018 passed by the Meghalaya Legislative Assembly.

And whereas, Meghalaya became an Autonomous State in 1971 and a full-fledged State on 21st January, 1972. The Khasi and Garo languages are the most commonly used languages in the State of Meghalaya and none of the languages from the State of Meghalaya have been considered for inclusion in the Eighth Schedule of the Constitution of India.

And whereas, Article 29 (I) of the Indian Constitution makes provision for the conservation of language, script and culture of the minorities.

And whereas, the Khasi Community and the Garo Community constitute minorities in relation to the Indian population but possessing distinct language, script and culture.

And whereas, the demand for the inclusion of the two languages in the Eighth Schedule of the Indian Constitutional system has its constitutional justification.

And whereas, the Government in the Department of Arts and Culture has and will always continue to play a major role in depicting, protecting, preserving and creating awareness of the distinct and unique Culture of the people of the State, its people and various aspects of their language, culture etc. through various programs, along with the intensive pursuance of different art forms of the State, region, country and the world, for furthering the inherent talent of our people as well as providing scope for establishment and/ or expansion of different levels of Creative/Fine, Visual and Performing Arts.

And whereas, the Department through the Historical and Antiquarian Studies, Museums, Library sciences and all other Arts and Culture Activities also ensures the use, preservation, promotion of all aspects of the Khasi and Garo language's which are not only deemed most important, but taken up with all sincerity to ensure that our languages become respectively two of the languages which may find place in the Eighth Schedule of the Constitution of India.

And whereas, the Khasi community and the Garo community have been, struggling over the years, through constitutional means, to achieve for their respective languages an honourable space within the Indian Constitutional framework by way of including their languages within the Eighth Schedule.

And whereas, the salient features of the Khasi language and Garo language have been reflected in Part A and Part B of this Resolution.

And whereas, Part A of the Resolution brings to light the salient features of Khasi language as mentioned herein under:

And whereas, the United Nations had recently recognized Khasi language as one of the indigenous language among the 402 such languages in the world, that has made entry in the Guinness Book of World Records.

And whereas, Khasi language has had its written script since 1842 by adopting the Roman Alphabet as introduced by Thomas Jones with the help of Donrai and Junkha, the Khasi literates of that time, and has since produced eminent writers who have contributed immensely in literary works belonging not only to different branches of Literature, but to other subjects as well.

And whereas, to be included into the Eighth Schedule, the language will have to have a sizeable population, and Khasi at present has a language population of 13,82,278 in the State as per 2011 census.

And whereas, Khasi is being studied as a subject with due recognition from the Calcutta University upto the Entrance level since 1900, at degree level since 1919 in the same University, at honours level by the Gauhati University since 1976, at the Master degree level under the North-Eastern Hill University (NEHU) since 1981 and now up to M.Phil and Ph.D, where research scholars are permitted to present their thesis and dissertation in Khasi for the Khasi subject.

And whereas, Khasi along with Garo have since May, 2005 been declared as Associate Official Language of the State when the Meghalaya Legislative Assembly passed the Meghalaya State Language Act, 2005.

And whereas, Khasi has grown in the different genres of literature at a fast rate. Today we have a number of books in the Khasi language close to 100 (one hundred) new titled on different subjects being added every year.

And whereas, Khasi has 6 (six) daily newspapers, 3 (three) weekly papers and 6 (six) monthly journal and newsletters; and Khasi is used as a language for instruction, trade and commerce, media and in other spheres of human activity. It is a vibrant language rich in folklore, culture and other social aspects.

And whereas, Khasi belongs to the Austro-Asiatic family in the Monkhmer group and it is unique in every aspect. It has been an island surrounded by Indo-Aryan and Tibeto-Burman group; it has not only survived but has also influenced other neighboring languages.

And whereas, the Sahitya Akademi continues to support Khasi in its literary activities; the Khasi scholars are provided a platform to show the richness of the Khasi language. National Book Trust, India also provides support to Khasi in the translation activities.

And whereas, today Khasi stories, poems, proverbs and other elements have been translated into English and other languages and the classics such as the Ramayana, Mahabharata, The Bible, Upanishad, Bhagavad Gita and other great works have been translated into Khasi.

And whereas, the "Course on Computer Concepts (CCC) in Khasi language", was launched by the Meghalaya State Government in September 21, 2012 in Shillong, aimed at introducing Khasi lingual into the present day technology and information.

Whereas, the Khasi Authors' Society which works for the promotion of Khasi language has recently organized meetings in all the District Headquarters in Khasi Jaintia Hills with the catchwords - "when the language survives, the community survives" to garner public support for the demand and the response has been overwhelming.

And whereas, Part B of the Resolution reflects the salient features of Garo language.

And whereas, the following are the salient points in respect of the Garo language:-

(1) Compilation of words of Garo language was first done by John Elliott, Commissioner of Dacca in 1788-1789, which marks the beginning of the efforts to put the language into writing.

(2) The Roman script has been adopted to write Garo language with some modifications to represent the sounds of the language as closely as possible. All the writings have been done in this script since the beginning of writing the language in 1860s.

(3) Garo, speakers in Meghalaya according to official census, rose from 3,28,613 in 1971 to 5,47,690 in 1991 as published in Meghalaya Socio-Economic Review, Directorate of Economics and Statistics, Shillong 2003. This is the major language of the Garo Hills. At present, Garo has a language population of 9,36,496 in the State as per 2011 census.

(4) Garo has 2 (two) daily newspapers and 3 (three) weekly papers. Garo language is used in all economic, trade and commercial transactions, and writing of official documents.

(5) Garo language and literature has developed since 1860s with the writing of primers, grammar, hymns, publication of textbooks, journals, translation of the Bible, religious and secular writings, etc. All the literary genres are developed in Garo literature, such as fiction and non-fiction in prose, traditional and modern poetry, modern and folk drama, biographies, autobiographies, encyclopaedia, books on language, culture, customary laws, folklore, history, political developments and other subjects. Portions of Garo literature have been translated into English, Bengali and other languages. Translations from English literature such as fiction, plays of Shakespeare, and of major Indian literary works such as the Mahabharata, Ramayana, Gitanjali and others into Garo have been done. New writings on various subjects are growing at a fast rate.

(6) There are 11 (eleven) Dictionaries on Garo language at present: Garo to Garo, Garo to English, Garo to Hindi, Garo to Assamese, Garo to Bengali and English to Garo.

(7) In recognition and on account of the progress in the literature of the language, Calcutta University recognized Garo at Matriculation level as one of the Modern Indian Languages in 1923. It was recognized as Major Indian Language by Gauhati University when it was established in 1947 and at Pre-University level in 1969. When the North-Eastern Hill University came to be established in 1973 by North-Eastern Hill University Act, 1973 (Central Act No. 24 of 1973), Garo as one of the Major Indian Languages was automatically included till the Pre University level. Garo as the Second language at Undergraduate level was introduced in 1986 and Honours in Garo in 1992.

(8) At Post Graduate level, Garo was introduced as a subject in 1996. Now, M.Phil and Ph.D scholars are permitted to write their thesis in Garo.

(9) The language has been a medium for broadcasting in AIR (Prasar Bharati) since 1953, and for telecasting in the DDK since its inception in Tura on 31st March 1993. Various subjects pertaining to knowledge and promoting the welfare of the society are discussed in this media.

(10) The Government of Meghalaya, North-East Zone Cultural Centre (NEZCC), and the Sahitya Akademi, New Delhi continue to support the A-chik Literature Society. They provide support to showcase, develop and revive the cultural traditions and to provide a platform for development of literature.

(11) Garo language belongs to the Bodo group of the Tibeto-Burman branch of the Tibeto-Chinese family of languages. Garo language has greatly influence those of other tribes and communities in daily conversation, business transactions and others.

(12) The members of A-chik Literature Society (A.L.S.) affirm that Garo language should be included in the Eighth Schedule of the Constitution of India. The A-chik Literature Society holds seminars, conferences, writers' meets to expand literature, and has been working with the popular support of other NGOs in demanding the inclusion of Garo in the Eighth Schedule of the Constitution of India.

And whereas, judging by the yardstick that has been applied and argued in the language recognized recently and in the past, few important points are to be prepared:

(1) The language seeking inclusion into the Eighth Schedule must be an Associate Official Language of the State.

(2) It must be a medium of instruction upto Higher Secondary of higher education.

(3) Literary traditions and script of their own.

(4) Spoken by the largest number of people in large contiguous geographical zones as dominant languages of certain regions.

(5) Must have an autonomous literary body like a Sahitya Sabha which will take forward the language.

(6) It must have a rich literary tradition both in oral and written form.

And whereas, in Khasi and Garo, we have fulfilled many of the required criteria, In as much as the facts that:-

(1) Khasi and Garo languages are ancient languages which have rich tradition which are unique and different from other languages in India.

(2) Languages of the minority groups like Bodo, Manipuri, Nepali etc. have been accorded constitutional recognition by amending the Eighth Schedule and that it can be constitutionally incumbent on the part of the Government of India to extend similar recognition to Khasi and Garo languages.

And whereas,

(1) Khasi and Garo are also a medium of instruction up to Higher Secondary and higher education.

(2) The Khasi Authors' Society and the A-chik Literature Society which for so many years have been working for the promotion of their respective languages are in line with Sahitya Sabhas of other States. These organizations are autonomous, and funded by the State Government to enable them to move ahead in their literary endeavours.

Now, therefore, this House has on this 27th day of November, 2018 unanimously resolved to urge upon the Government of India to initiate necessary measures, as early as possible, to bring forward the Official Bill to amend the Eighth Schedule of the Indian Constitution to include the Khasi and Garo languages in the Eighth Schedule of the Constitution of India.

Certified that the above Resolution was unanimously approved by the Meghalaya Legislative Assembly on 27th November, 2018.

ANDREW SIMONS,
Commissioner & Secretary,
Meghalaya Legislative Assembly.

P. W. INGTY,
Additional Chief Secretary to the Govt. of Meghalaya,
Political Department.